

The African Conquests

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sprang rapidly into honour from the day when Guiscard, having captured Palermo, placed a Norman *ammimtus* to govern it in place of its former emir. Once the capital was fixed at Palermo, the governor of the city would take on a greater importance even than the supervision of the Moslems, and the command of the city's ships, could give him. *

It is remarkable that the first and the greatest of Roger's admirals were Greeks, in race and religion. The first emir of note is Eugenius, a Greek of Sicily, who in the reign of the Great Count was a notary of the court, and much in his master's confidence. It is rather to his translation into Latin of Ptolemy's *Optics*, than to any great feat of arms, that he owes his fame. His successor was Christodulus, who was the King's greatest officer between 1100 and 1130, but in the last six years of his life was eclipsed by George of Antioch. In 1110 Christodulus was already emir; he became soon *protonobilissimus* in the Curia and received lands in Calabria, where he was able to win the King's grace for the Greek churches. As *ammira-tus* he became the first man at court, and sum-

moned the Curia.

His adherence to the Greek Church makes it unlikely that Christodulus was a mere Moslem

* Amari, *B. A.*, §, t, ill.p, 350, For the dates of Roger's two greatest admirals see Colin, *op. cit.*, p, 98 wg., who fixes the date of Christodulus'a death as 1130 or certainly before 1131. For Eugenius see Chap. VIII,